

Message Text

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ACTION SCI-06

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4597

INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 9351

DEPT PASS NSF POLAR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TGEN, XB, AR

SUBJ: GLOMAR CHALLENGER

REF: A. DEPT A-9654; B. BA 1440

1. SUMMARY: EMBASSY NOTES THAT SOME PROPOSED DRILL SITES FOR GLOMAR CHALLENGER FALL WITHIN ZONE CLAIMED BY ARGENTINA AND/OR CHILE. EMBASSY POINTS OUT THAT THIS HAS POTENTIAL FOR PROBLEMS AND SUGGESTS ALTERNATIVES TO ACCOMPLISH DESIRED RESERARCH OBJECTIVES WHILE AVOIDING SUCH PROBLEMS. END SUMMARY.

2. LAST PAGE REF A SHOWS PLANNED DRILL SITES FOR GLOMAR CHANNLENGER ON LEGS 35 AND 36. EMBASSY NOTES THAT SIX PROPOSED DRILL SITES ARE SOUTH OF 60 S AND THUS IN TERRITORY COVERED BY ANTARCTIC TREATY. IT ALSO NOTES, NOWEVER THAT EIGHT PROPOSED DRILL SITES ARE NORTH OF 60 S.

3. BASED ON REFTTEL C AND PAST EXPERIENCE, EMBASSY CONCERNED THAT GOA WILL PARTICULARLY VIEW ANY DRILL SITES ABOVE 60 S AS SUBJECT TO GOA JURISDICTION IF THEY FALL WITHIN 200 MILES OF ARGENTINE TERRITORY, INCLUDING ARGENTIEN CLAIMED TERRITORY (FALKLANDS, SOUTH GEORGEIA I., SOUTH SANDWICH ISLANDS). WHILE
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IT IS DIFFICULT T GAUGE WITH CERTAINTY FROM MAP IN REF A,

IT WOULD APPEAR THAT 5TH, 9TH, AND 10TH DRILL SITES OF LEG 35 ARE WITHING SUCH ZONES AS ARE 3 AND 5 DRILL SITES OF LEG 36. SIMILAR SITUATION MAY PERTAIN TO CHILE FOR 5 DRILL SITE OF LEG 35 AND 1 AND 2 DRILL SITES OF LEG 36.

4. EMBASSY NOTES THAT ATTACHEMTN TO REF A CONTAINING THIS MAP ALREADY GIVEN GOA AND GOC EMBASSIES IN WASHINGTON.

5. WHILE EMASSY PREPARED SUPPORT DRILLING PROGRAM AS PROPOSED IF THAT IS WHISH OF DEPT AND NSG, IT DESIRES TO EMPAHSIZE THAT THERE ARE POSSIBILITIES OF INCIDENTS IF WE PROCEED ON THIS COURSE. SUGGEST PROGRAM BE REEXAMINED SO AS TO WHILE STILL ACCOMPLISHING PRINCIPAL RESERARCH OBJECTIVES OF MISSION (A) ELIMINATE THOSE DRILL SITES WHICH COULD CAUSE PROBLEMS WITH GOA OR (B) INCLUDE AT LEAST ONE DRILL SITE WHICH USG WOULD REARD AS BEING IN WATERS UNDER GOA JURISDICTION, THENCE SEEK OFFICIAL GOA APPROVAL INADVANCE FOR DEFINE COOPERATIVE RESRARCH PROGRAM UNDER USG/GOA SCIENTIFIC & TECHNICAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT, TO INCLUDE ALL SITES WITHING GOA-CLAIMED JURISDICTION. APPROACH SIMILAR TO (B) HAS BEEN USED IN PAST FOR OCEANOGRAPHIC RESERACH UNDERTAKEN BY R/V HERO. EMBASSY OPTIMISTIC THAT GOA WOULD SUPPORT SUCH A PROJECT THOUGH IT WOULD PROBABLY INSIST ON CONSIDERABLE MORE ARGENTINE PARTICIPATION ON CRUISE AND IN ANALYZING RESULTS THAN SCRIPPS MAY NOW BE PLANNING ONE. TIME TO OBTAIN APPROVAL WOULD BE SHORT HOWVER AND IT WOULD BE PRUDENT FOR SHIP IN OUR VIEW TO ALSO HAVE AS AN OPTION A SCHEDULE OF DRILL SITES BASED ON (A) ABOVE UNLESS DEPT AND NSG WILLING RISK POTENTIAL CLASH WITH ARGENTINA OVER OCEAN JURISDICTION ISSUE.

6. EMBASSY HAS BEEN APPROACHED BY REP OF GLOBAL MARINE (L D ALFORD) WHO SEEKING OUR HELP IN OBTAINING ARGENTINE AF LOGISTIC SUPPORT FO FLYING 70 PERSONS AND 60,000 LBS. FREIGH FROM BUENOS AIRES TO USHUAIA AND RETURNING 70 PERSONS HERE. PRELIMINARY CONTACT WITH ARGENTINEAF ANTARCTIC CHIEF GARCIA HAS EVOKED REQUEST FOR A LETTER SPECIFYING DETAILED REQUIREMENTS AS WELL AS INFO ON GLOMAR CHA*LENGERS RESEARCH PLANS. WE DO NOT RPT NOT PLAN SEND SUCH LETTER UNTIL IN RECEIPT OF REPLY TO THIS TEL.
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7. WHILE WE AWARE THAT ALFORD DISCUSSED GLOMAR CHALLENGER PLANS DURNG VISITS TO USHUAIA AND HERE AND MAY HAVE WORKED OUT AGREEMTN WITH BUENOS AIRES AGENT (BONFIGLIO), WE NOT AWARE OF ANY REQUEST FOR OR ISSUANCE FO CLEARANCE FOR GLOMAR CHALLENGER T ENTER ARGENTINE WATERS. WOULD APPRECIATE AS PART OF REPLY INFO ON ANY CLEARANCE REQUEST TO GOA ACCOMPLISHED OR CONTEMPLATED.

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